

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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R 201050Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4599
AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

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E O 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV PFOR WB GW GE US FR UR UK
SUBJ: SCHMIDT ON BERLIN POLICY; FURTHER ATTACKS FROM GDR

REF: BERLIN 6038

1. SUMMARY: FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT RECONFIRMED FRG COMMIT-
MENT TO DETENTE AND SATISFACTION WITH DECLARATION ON BERLIN
IN SPEECH AT BORSIG CORPORATION IN BERLIN MAY 16. GDR
REACTED QUICKLY AND SHARPLY TO SCHMIDT'S CRITICISM OF BERLIN
WALL AND REBUTTAL OF SED CHAIRMAN ERICH HONECKER'S EARLIER
(MAY 11) DENUNCIATION OF DECLARATION. END SUMMARY.

2. SCHMIDT NOTED HIS SATISFACTION THAT AGREEMENT HAD
PREVAILED AT LONDON CONFERENCE ON SIGNIFICANCE OF BERLIN
FOR WHOLE WESTERN WORLD. HE PARTICULARLY PRAISED PRESIDENT
CARTER FOR "FIRM CONCEPTION" OF BERLIN'S SIGNIFICANCE.
HE RECONFIRMED FRG READINESS TO CONTINUE POLICY OF
DETENTE "DESPITE ALL DIFFICULTIES"; SPECIFICALLY,
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AN AGREEMENT WITH GDR ON SPANDAU LOCK, TELTOW CANAL,
AND NORTHERN CROSSING POINT WERE TERMED "ENTIRELY
ACHIEVABLE", BUT WEST MUST NOT LET ITSELF BE PLACED
UNDER TIME PRESSURE. FRG WOULD REFUSE TO CONCLUDE ANY
TREATIES WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE BERLIN OR WHICH
WOULD DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THE CITY. CONTRADICTING
ERICH HONECKER'S CRITIQUE OF DECLARATION ON BERLIN

(REFTEL), SCHMIDT REPEATED THAT QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT IS VALID FOR ALL BERLIN AND TERMED BERLIN WALL THE INHUMAN EVIDENCE OF A COMPLETELY BANKRUPT POLITICAL SYSTEM.

3. ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, SCHMIDT DECLARED FRG WILLINGNESS TO HELP BERLIN THROUGH ITS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, BUT ADDED THAT BERLIN MUST ALSO MOBILIZE ITS OWN FORCES. THE CHANCELLOR HAD RECENTLY DISCUSSED WITH FRG MINISTERS OF ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH WHETHER A LITTLE MORE IN THE WAY OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS MIGHT BE DIRECTED TO BERLIN. AMIDST APPLAUSE, SCHMIDT CALLED FOR AN END TO THE "THEATRICAL" OBSTRUCTION OF CONSTRUCTION OF NEW POWER PLANT IN BERLIN; THE PLANT MUST BE BUILT. FRG WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEE THAT BERLIN NOT REMAIN FOREVER A POWER-SUPPLY ISLAND, BUT WOULD BE INCLUDED IN A PERMANENT CONNECTION WITH THE OUTER WORLD.

4. HONECKER LOST NO TIME IN STRIKING BACK AT SCHMIDT'S STATEMENTS ON BERLIN, INSERTING OBSERVATION IN ADDRESS TO MAY 17 FDGB CONGRESS THAT FRG WOULD MISS ITS BIGGEST CHANCE FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH GDR AND ITS ALLIES IF IT CONTINUED IN FUTURE TO INDULGE IN THE FICTION THAT THE QA WAS VALID FOR "ALL BERLIN"; SCHMIDT'S STATEMENTS DID NOT HELP FRG. FOR "US", HONECKER ADDED, BERLIN WALL WAS "SECURITY AND PEACE".

5. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND WHOSE MAY 14/15 EDITION CARRIED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF PRAVA AND RADIO MOSCOW COMMENTARIES ON DECLARATION OF BERLIN, SUMMARIZED EDITORIALS IN NEPSZAVA (BUDAPEST) GRANMA (HAVANNA) O DIARIO (LISBON) AND UNSERE ZEIT (DUESSELDORF) CRITICAL OF DECLARATION IN MAY 18 EDITION. NEPSZAVA REJECTED NOTION THAT DECLARATION WAS JUST A ROUTINE, STATEMENT REPEATING EARLIER ONES; ITS TONE WAS SIGNIFICANTLY HARDER AND IT WAS NOT THE BEST PREPARATION FOR THE CSCE BELGRADE CONFERENCE INsofar AS IT RAISES, AND IN SO SHARP A MANNER, THE ESSENTIALLY-SOLVED WEST BERLIN PROBLEM. GRANMA ATTRIBUTED DECLARATION TO PEOPLE IN THE WEST WHO ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE CLIMATE OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH EAST/WEST DEBATE ON BERLIN HAS RECENTLY TAKEN ON UNUSUAL DEGREE OF BLUNTNESS FOR POST-QA ERA, WE WOULD ASSESS HONECKER'S REMARKS AND PROLIFERATION OF BLOC COMMENTARIES AS PRO FORMA REPLIES TO LONDON DECLARATION AND SCHMIDT'S CRITICISM

OF BERLIN WALL (WHICH OF COURSE FOLLOWED UPON
SIMILAR CRITICISM BY PRESIDENT CARTER). HOWEVER,
WE HOPE ADDRESSEES AND PUBLIC WILL NOT LOSE SIGHT
OF FACT THAT GDR ACTIONS LAST DECEMBER AND EARLIER
THIS YEAR WERE THE REAL SPARK TO THE RECENT EXCHANGE
OF STATEMENTS ABOUT THE WALL AND WHETHER THE QA
APPLIES TO GREATER BERLIN OR ONLY TO ITS WESTERN
SECTORS. AT THE BEGINNING WAS THE DEED, NOT THE WORD.
WHILE WE WERE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED TO SEE SCHMIDT
RESORT TO STRONG LANGUAGE ON MAY 17 (INDEED HONECKER
ACCUSED HIM OF BACKTRACKING ON COMMITMENTS MADE
DURING THEIR CONVERSATION AT HELSINKI SUMMIT), WE
ARE MORE CONCERNED BY WEHNER'S WIDELY REPORTED
SIDESWIPE AT SCHMIDT MAY 17. FROM OUR STANDPOINT,
THIS OBVIOUS DISHARMONY IN FRG RANKS BODES
POORLY FOR FRG NEGOTIATIONS WITH GDR. END COMMENT.GEORGE

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